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No. 24 Pirates Clinch PBC Berth With 6-1 Win Over Flagler





Posted: Apr 22, 2011

SAVANNAH, Ga. - Armstrong Atlantic State University senior lefthander **Trent Landa** hurled a complete-game seven-hitter to lead the No. 24-ranked Pirates to a 6-1 Peach Belt Conference baseball victory over visiting Flagler on Friday afternoon, clinching a berth into the upcoming PBC Tournament for Armstrong.

With the win, the Pirates (30-12, 12-7 PBC) can finish no lower than fourth in the PBC's East Division standings, eliminating both the Saints (19-24, 9-13 PBC) and USC Aiken from tournament contention. The PBC Tournament takes place on May 8-12 in Columbus, Ga.

Landa and Flagler starter Jonathan Arnold each looked strong through the first four innings, putting up zeroes, but the Pirates finally got to Arnold in the fifth with a pair of runs. A Mike Barnhill leadoff single to left started the rally, as Lawrence Jackson's suicide squeeze bunt scored Barnhill with one out and Chris Zittrouer followed with an RBI single to put Armstrong up, 2-0.

A wild pitch by Arnold in the sixth plated a run to make it 3-0 Pirates. Flagler challenged in the eighth inning as an RBI single by Nate Fudala plated one run and the Saints had the tying runs on base for pinch hitter Justin McKenna, but Landa induced a pop fly to center to end the inning.

Armstrong put the game out of reach in the sixth with three runs on RBI singles from Josh Heath, Zittrouer and Alex Frederick.

Landa (4-4) went the distance in his third complete game of the year, giving up seven hits and one run in nine innings, walking two and striking out seven. Arnold (3-7) took the loss for the Saints, giving up eight hits and six runs - three earned - in 7 2/3 innings, walking three and striking out four.

Zittrouer had two hits and two RBIs to lead the Pirates at the plate, while Barnhill and Frederick also added two hits apiece.

Fudala led the Saints on the afternoon with two hits and the only RBI of the game for Flagler.

The two teams will wrap up their Peach Belt Conference series with a 1:00 p.m. doubleheader on Saturday afternoon at Pirate Field.



ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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